Modernisation Projects of Oil PSUs

588. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Oil Companies have taken up modernization and technology upgradation projects; and

(b) if so, company-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) In order to improve the financial viability of operations, improvement in fuel quality, production of eco-friendly fuel, to improve the production/yield of existing production units, in oil industry modernization and technology upgradation is a continuous process. All the companies are laying emphasis on information technology/computerization in various areas of operations. Some of the important technologies/processes introduced by the oil companies in upstream and downstream sectors of the oil industry for modernization/ upgradation are indicated below:

The oil companies engaged in upstream sector are continuously upgrading and inducting new technologies in the areas of Geo-scientific data acquisition, processing and interpretation, Reservoir characterization and R and D laboratories besides other related activities in drilling and production technology, etc.

Public Sector Oil Companies in downstream sector have inducted technologies in the refineries like the Diesel Hydro De-Sulpherisation, Catalytic Reformers, FCC Revamp, Fluid Catalytic Cracking Revamp, etc. In the gas sector NGL to Gas and Gasoline (NTGG), technology development of Coke Gasification Catalyst Technology, Smart Cathodic Protection Monitor, development of field applied coatings technologies, etc. have been introduced.

Alternative fuel for CNG

589. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CNG is the only fuel considered green for protecting and preserving environment against pollution caused by public transport in metropolises;

(b) if so, whether despite all assurances by Government to provide for adequate arrangements for dispensing CNG for the National Capital, long queues of vehicles continue to be seen at all the CNG dispensing stations in Delhi, if so, the existing arrangements for supply of CNG to vehicles and the plans for augmentation thereof; and

(c) whether any alternative safe fuel for public transport has been identified or developed and the resources available therefor in Delhi, and other metropolises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The length of vehicle queues and waiting time has reduced after September 2001. Queues, if any, are generated only during temporary break down/shut down in some CNG stations which are normally restored within few hours.

However, to augment the supply of CNG, IGL is planning to increase the number of CNG stations from the present number of 87 to 94 by March 2002.

(c) As per the interim report of the Expert Committee set up by Government of India under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR the following are the alternative fuels apart from CNG.

1. Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)

2. Di-Methyl Ether

3. Bio-diesel

4. Hydrogen

5. Electric vehicle

6. Fuel cell

7. 5% ethanol blended petrol

Of these, auto LPG is available in the market in Delhi and Mumbai and 5% ethanol blended petrol is being experimented in some parts of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Mumbai.